RAMSEY CLARK

A JFK Plot Doubtful, Says Clark

By ROBERT E. THOMPSON

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• WASHINGTON, March 1—The nation's newly nominated Attorney General, Ramsey Clark, is extremely skeptical about the evidence and ethics involved in a New Orleans investigation of President Kennedy's assassination.

President Johnson reported yesterday that he planned to appoint Clark to the Cabinet. Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark, 67, the nominee's father, then announced that he would retire from the bench to avoid any possible conflicts of interest.

• Shortly after Johnson sent his nomination to the Senate, Ramsey Clark, 39, told reporters that he is "very doubtful" that New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison has uncovered any new evidence about the assassination.

He said: "It is very difficult for me to see how a law enforcement officer in a state or local government—if he really had any evidence—would fail as his first act to turn it over to the Secret Service or the FBI."

WAS RFK AIDE

Clark, who entered the Justice Department in 1961 under then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, has been Acting Attorney General since last October, when Nicholas Katzenbach shifted to Undersecretary of State.

He served as Assistant Attorney General under Kennedy, who left the Justice Department in 1964 to run for senator from New York.

• If Garrison has any information that might shed additional light on the assassination, Clark said, he has a duty to turn it over to federal authorities.

• While Clark did not disclose the source of his skeptical attitude, it has been learned that the FBI has scrutinized all aspects of Garrison's probe very carefully. So far, federal authorities appear to place little credence in Garrison's sensational suggestion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted in concert with a pro-Castro plot to kill the president.

• Federal officials have privately expressed a cynical attitude toward Garrison's much-publicized investigation. But Clark's statement was the first public declaration of disbelief from the executive branch.

AGREES WITH WARREN

Clark told newsmen at the White House that he regarded the Warren Commission's investigation of Kennedy's assassination as one of the most comprehensive ever conducted. He said he agreed with the commission's findings, the most important of which was that Oswald "acted alone" in shooting Kennedy in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963.

Garrison has reported that he uncovered evidence of a plot. He also indicated last week that the probe had been set back by the sudden death of David W. Ferrie, a free lance pilot, who allegedly was linked to Oswald.

Clark's statement, however, suggested that federal agents have found no evidence to substantiate Garrison's contentions.

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